# THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY

## FIRST ASSEMBLY.

## SEVENTH SESSION.

*Tuesday, the 19th November 1935/3rd Vrischikam 1111.*

The Assembly met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven of the clock with the President in the chair.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

*Over-time work in the Government Press.*

120. *MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Government have ordered that over-time work should be minimised as far as possible;

(*b*) whether they have ordered that previous sanction of Govsrnment was necessary whenever over-time work was arranged;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, whether those directions are followed;

(*d*) what necessitates work out of office hours; and

(*e*) whether it is paucity of hands or increase of work?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The urgency with which certain items of work have to be executed;

(*e*) The volume of work has increased and no corresponding increase in the staff has been made.

**PRESIDENT**: On account of the unavoidable absence of the Chief Secretary, I am premitting Mr. Thommen to answer questions on behalf of the Chief Secretary.

**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*): With reference to the answer to part (*a*), may I know the extent to which over-time work was minimised as a result of the Government order?

**MR. T. C. THOMMEN** (*Secretary to Government*): I am sorry I am not in a position to give that information.

**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*): As a result of the Government order, was there any reduction in over-time work?

**MR. T. C. THOMMEN** (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; there was some reduction.

**MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*): Will the member be pleased to give us an idea of the proportion of such reduction?

**MR. T. C. THOMMEN** (*Secretary to Government*): That has not been calculated.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): With reference to the answer to part (*e*), may I know why, when the volume of work has increased, there has not been any increase in the staff?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Throughout the year the work is not heavy. It is only in some parts of the year that the work increases. Therefore there has been no necessity to increase the staff. The increase in work is managed by over-time work by the existing staff.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): It is stated in the answer that the volume of work has increased. I am asking why the staff was not correspondingly increased, at least during the period of heavy work.

PRESIDENT: What Mr. Thommen says is that the increase of work is not continuous and that it arises only now and then. Certainly that cannot justify a permanent addition to the staff.

MR. A S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know why at least temporary arrangements were not made during the period when there is increase of work?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Temporary arrangements *were* made; over-time work was allowed.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Am I to understand that, with the increase in the volume of work, over-time work also increased, in spite of the Government order?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Thommen says that the extra work is being attended to by the existing staff working over-time.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In the first part, he says that over-time work has been minimised. In part (*e*), on the other hand, he admits that the volume of work has increased. In view of the Government order to minimise over-time work, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of appointing additional temporary hands to cope with the heavy work, at least during the period of increase of work?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No doubt the volume of over-time work has been minimised. Only, instead of appointing additional hands, the existing staff is allowed to work over-time during the period of heavy work.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Thommen will please note that, in part (*e*) of the answer, Government themselves admit that the volume of work has increased. It does not now lie in the mouth of Mr. Thommen to say that the volume of work has not increased. In the light of the fact that the work has increased, Mr. Asan wants to know how that increase in the volume of work is being tackled. Is it by temporarily increasing the staff when the work is heavy or increasing the period of over-time work of the present staff? Is that so, Mr. Asan?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Yes, Sir.

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The work is distributed among the existing staff. Additional hands are not entertained.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Has an attempt been made, in the face of the Government order, to minimise over-time work?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Every attempt has been made to minimise over-time work. But the work has been steadily growing in volume.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Why did they not appoint at least temporary hands to cope with the increased volume of work? Do the Government intend doing so at least hereafter?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Any increase in the number of hands cannot go to minimise the quantity of work that has got to be done.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will not an addition to the staff minimise the work for each individual?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): In the light of that fact, will the Government consider the question of appointing more hands, at least for the period when there is additional work?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Will the member be pleased to say whether, at any time when there was heavy work, the Superintendent, Government Press, went in for outside compositors?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether the heavy increase of work during the preparation of the Electoral Rolls is being handled entirely by the Government Press itself?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No; private presses are also given some work.

*Government Press.*

121. *MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that great discontent prevails among the employees of the Government Press?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Have the Government received any memorials from the employees to the Government Press stating that they are being over-worked?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Have the Government gone through them?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) Do the Government think that the memorialists have a genuine grievance?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether there is any rule empowering the Superintendent of the Government Press to collect subscriptions from his subordinates for things for which they have little fascination and in which they have no interest?

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